

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03632 130228Z

64

ACTION SS-25

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TO SEISTATE WASHDC 1335

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEHBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3632

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, JA, UNSC

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST PEACEKEEPING

REF: USUN 3606; USUN 3571

1. SC PRESIDENT SAITO ANNOUNCED EARLY AFTERNOON AUGUST 12 SCHEDULING OF INFORMAL SC CONSULTATIONS FOR 3:00 P.M. AUGUST 13. HARDLY AN HOUR LATER, SC MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS HAD BEEN "POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE."

2. JAPANESE MINISTER OHTAKA SAID SAITO HAD CONSULTED WITH USYG GUYER AND HAMES JONAH EARLY AUGUST 12. GUYER AHD URGED SPEED AND HAD CLAIMED THAT "THE PARTIES" WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH SYG'S PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AHD SUBSEQUENTLY TELEPHONED TO REQUEST THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN ON SYG'S PROPOSAL BEFORE WEEK OF AUGUST 18. EGYPTIAN DEPUTY AMBASSADOR AHMED TOLD JAPANESE MINISTER
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03632 130228Z

OHTAKA THAT EGYPTIAN RESERVATIONS ABOUT SYG'S PROPOSAL

CENTERED ON DOUBT AS TO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM AND ON FACT THAT CHIEF COORDINATOR SIILASVUO WOULD BE HEADQUARTERED IN JERUSALEM. OHTAKA SAID THAT HE HAD POINTED OUT TO AMBASSADOR AHMED THAT UN HAS ITS OWN BUILDINGS IN JERUSALEM AND HAS NEVER "RECOGNIZED" ISRAELI OCCUPATION.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SWEDEN FULLY SUPPORTS PROPOSED CHANGE, APPARENTLY ON GROUND THAT LILJESTRAND WOULD BE UPGRADED PARA 4. OHTAKA PROVIDED US FOLLOWING DRAFT REPLY FROM PRESIDENT OF SC TO SYG WHICH HE SAID JAPANESE HAD PREPARED WITH ASSISTANCE OF SECRETARIAT. WE WITHHELD COMMENT PENDING REVIEW OF LETTER IN WASHINGTON. TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

"I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1975 CONCERNING THE FUTURE CO-ORDINATION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN ITS CONSENT TO THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF MAJOR-GENERAL BENGT LILJESTRAND, AT PRESENT CHIEF OF STAFF OF UNTSO, AS COMMANDER OF UNEF.

"TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION YOUR OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM FOR THE ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE THREE EXISTING PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST (NAMELY, UNTSO, UNEF AND UNDOF),

THE SECURITY COUNCIL ALSO AGREES WITH YOUR PROPOSAL TO APPOINT LT-GENERAL ENSIO SIILASVUO, AT PRESENT COMMANDER OF UNEF, AS THE CHIEF CO-ORDINATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE COUNCIL NOTES THAT AS CHIEF CO-ORDINATOR, GENERAL SIILASVUO WILL CONTINUE AS NECESSARY TO DISCHARGE HIS FUNCTIONS IN RELATION TO THE MILITARY WORKING GROUP OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISON AND CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES ON IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS RELATING TO PEACE-KEEPING IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT FURTHER NOTES THAT THE THREE PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL MAINTAIN THEIR OPERATIONAL IDENTITY.

"ACCEPT ETC.....

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PAGE 03 USUN N 03632 130228Z

UNQUOTE

4. COMMENT: OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT DRAFT LETTER ADEQUATELY PROTECTS OUR POSITION ON PROPER CONDUCT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. IF SYL'S PROPOSAL EVENTUALLY PROVES ACCEPTABLE TO ALL, BEST OUTCOME WOULD BE APPROVAL OF JAPANESE DRAFT ON "NO OBJECTION " BASIS WITHOUT RECORD

MEETING OF SC. MUCH MORE LIKELY WOULD BE SOVIET INSISTENCE
ON FORMAL MEETING AND STRONG SOVIET EFFORT TO ALTER LANGUAGE
TO REFLECT SOVIET VIEW THAT SC SHOULD CONTROL PEACEKEEPING
ACTIVITIES CLOSELY. IN FACE OF SUCH EFFORT, TIME WOULD BE ON
OUR SIDE UNLESS SIILASVUO SETS DEADLINE AFTER WHICH HE WOULD
QUIT UNLESS NEW ASSIGNMENT HAD BEEN CONFIRMED.
MOYNIHAN

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